



cc: Lowell Braston  
Mary Ann Wright  
Gil Hunt  
Brad Hill  
Bob Krueger  
orig. return to IRB  
Wayne H.  
Tony G.  
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M/047/017

### TELEFAX COVER SHEET

**TO:** JOHN BAZA

**OFFICE:** DOGM

**NUMBER:** 801.538.5340

**FAX:** 801.359.3940

**SUBJECT:** O&G Operations around White River mine facilities

**FROM:** Jerry Kenczka  
Petroleum Engineer

**DATE:** August 14, 1998

**OFFICE:** BLM Vernal District Field Office

**NUMBER:** 435.781.4494

**FAX:** 435.781.4410

**NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET):** 1

**REMARKS:**

Sending a copy of a letter we have sent to Lone Mountain. Deals with APD considerations adjacent to the old **White River Oil Shale Mine** facilities. We are in the process of coming out with an administrative closure order for an area around the old mine shafts that will close the area down to all activities, O&G development, livestock grazing, recreation use, etc. I have a note to make sure that DOGM is kept informed on the closure.

The reason for the closure stems from the explosion that occurred several years ago while the mine was being "sealed up". One individual was killed as a result of that explosion and we now have 2 lawsuits against BLM over that action. Our solicitors have advised us that an administrative closure should be implemented until the mine can be fully sealed off so as to not allow opportunities for additional lawsuits associated with the mine from injuries, deaths, etc.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Vernal District Field Office  
170 South 500 East  
Vernal, Utah 84078-2799  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
UT080  
3161.2

August 11, 1998

Mr. William A. Ryan  
Lone Mountain Production Company  
350 South 800 East  
Vernal UT 84078

Re: Black Dragon Fed. H#33-27  
T10S, R24E, Sec. 21, SESE  
Federal Lease UTU-66422

Dear Sir:

This Notice of Staking received June 16, 1998, is located within the former prototype oil shale leases which comprised the White River Oil Shale Mine. The purpose of this letter is to advise you that if an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) is submitted for this location, the APD will be denied based on the hazard to public safety caused by the nearby White River mine facilities. This determination will remain in place so long as the hazard exists.

Currently, the open shaft at the mine facilities is hazardous to public safety due to methane gas accumulation within the shaft. The well location is approximately 0.5 miles from one of the existing shafts at the mine facilities. If a well capable of production is drilled, the proposed access route can not be reasonably secured in a manner that would restrict unauthorized individuals from entering or visiting the mine facilities area.

This office will consider a suspension of operations if this lease is not held by production.

Given our concerns and need to account for public safety in this area, we would like to meet with Lone Mountain Production Company in the near future to discuss what development can be accommodated adjacent to the White River mine facilities. Please contact Howard Cleavinger at 435-781-4480 to arrange for a meeting.

Sincerely,

David E. Howell  
Vernal District Manager